

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IOE-00 ARA-16 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07

L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 OIC-04 DRC-01 /164 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5518

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: CANBERRA 6029

1. WE NOTE WITH SURPRISE AUSTRALIAN DFA VIEW, AS CONTAINED REFTEL, THAT PUERTO RICO IS "ITEM UNDER CONSIDERATION" AT 29TH UNGA WHICH IN FACT IT IS NOT. CUBAN EFFORTS TO INSCRIBE SO-CALLED "COLONIAL CASE OF PUERTO RICO" ON 26TH UNGA AGENDA DECISIVELY DEFEATED. PUERTO RICO IS ISSUE INSTEAD IN UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (WHICH NORMALLY MEETS BETWEEN UNGA SESSIONS). COMMITTEE HELD INCONCLUSIVE DEBATE IN 1972 AND 1973 ON CUBAN REQUEST TO HAVE PUERTO RICO PLACED AGAIN ON LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AND HAS ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS WHICH WE HAVE STRONGLY OPPOSED (ON GROUNDS THAT COMMITTEE HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICO IN LIGHT UNGA 1953 RESOLUTION REMOVING PUERTO RICO FROM LIST OF TERRITORIES). AUSTRALIAN REP ON COMMITTEE VERY SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITION, BUT FINDS HIMSELF HAMPERED (AS WE HAVE OFTEN REPORTED) BY WHAT IT REGARDS AS ILLOGICAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM DFA THAT ALL ISSUES SHOULD BE DEBATED AT UN.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO US, SIR PATRICK SHAW, VISITED PUERTO RICO AT GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON'S INVITATION IN JULY. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT RAISE WITH
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HIM US OPPOSITION TO COMMITTEE OF 24 INVOLVEMENT IN ISSUE AND

THAT EMBASSY CLARIFY TO DFA THAT PUERTO RICO NOT RPT NOT ON
UNGA AGENDA. FYI: EVEN THOUGHT UNGA OPEN SEPT 17, COMMITTEE OF
24 HAS NOT YET CONCLUDED ITS WORK THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF MANY
VISITING MISSIONS AND WILL REACH PUERTO RICO, LAST ITEM ON ITS
AGENDA, IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. END FYI.
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